

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Statistical Analysis Center Data Brief



Completeness of Criminal History Records in Arizona CY 2003-2012

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona.

Arizona Computerized Criminal History Repository

May 2014

As mandated by Arizona Revised Statute §41-1750, Arizona criminal justice agencies are required to submit arrest and associated case disposition information for all felony, sexual, domestic violence-related, and driving under the influence (DUI) offenses to the central state repository, called the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) records system, which is maintained by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission's Statistical Analysis Center uses annual ACCH data extracts to analyze the completeness (i.e., arrest charges with associated case disposition information attached) of ACCH records on an annual basis.

Completeness of Arrest Records Entered in the ACCH

A total of 455,911 arrest charges from incidents that occurred in calendar year (CY) 2012 were entered into the ACCH prior to January 1, 2014. Of the CY 2012 arrest charges entered into the ACCH, 328,895 (72.1 percent) contained associated case disposition information by the end of CY 2013 (Table 1). From CY 2003 to CY 2012, the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information in the ACCH by the end of the calendar year following the date of arrest ranged from a low of 57.2 percent in CY 2005 to a high of 72.1 percent in CY 2012. When excluding failure to appear arrest charges, the percentage of arrest charges with subsequent case disposition information in the ACCH increases overall from 59.1 percent in CY 2003 to 73.0 percent in CY 2012.

**Table 1. Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information Entered in the ACCH
CY 2003-2012***

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Arrest Charges Available in the ACCH	444,538	460,191	482,196	492,067	502,766	488,727	468,396	466,213	449,703	455,911
Arrest Charges with a Disposition in the ACCH	263,240	265,566	275,743	312,006	342,749	333,533	304,482	308,819	320,635	328,895
Percent of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information	59.2%	57.7%	57.2%	63.4%	68.2%	68.2%	65.0%	66.2%	71.3%	72.1%
Percent of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information (Excluding Failure to Appear Arrest** Charges)	59.1%	57.9%	58.5%	65.0%	69.5%	70.4%	66.2%	66.9%	72.0%	73.0%

* Data includes only those arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing specific date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded from analysis.

** Includes first-and second-degree failure to appear (ARS §13-2507 & ARS §13-2506), and promise to appear violations (ARS §13-3904).

The number of arrest charges entered into the ACCH by the end of the following calendar year fluctuated from CY 2003 to CY 2012 (Table 1). In CY 2012, the number of arrest charges entered in the ACCH by the end of CY 2013 was 455,911 but the number of arrest charges entered into ACCH during the time period examined ranged from a low of 444,538 in CY 2003 to a high of 502,766 in CY 2007. Similarly, the total

number of CY 2012 arrest charges with associated case disposition information in the ACCH by the end of CY 2013 was 328,895, but the number ranged from a low of 263,240 in CY 2003 to a high of 342,749 in CY 2007.

Charges Missing Disposition Information by Offense

Listed in Table 2 are the ten Arizona Revised Statute citations that account for the highest numbers of arrest charges with missing case disposition information in the ACCH from CY 2003 to CY 2012. Over the ten-year period, 112,284 second degree failure to appear arrest charges were missing disposition information and 92,237 driving under the influence (DUI) charges were missing disposition information in the ACCH before January 1, 2014. All three statutes in Arizona's criminal code for failure to appear and promise to appear violations are in the top ten of arrest charges with missing disposition information.

The percentage of all arrest charges missing disposition information varies by offense statute.

For example, the 92,237 DUI arrest charges missing disposition information make up merely 18.1 percent of all DUI arrest charges in the ACCH over the ten-year period. In contrast, the 53,082 first degree failure to appear arrest charges missing disposition information constituted 62.8 percent of all first degree failure to appear arrest charges in the ACCH over the same period.

**Table 2. Arrest Offense Categories with the Highest Number of Charges
Missing Disposition Information in the ACCH, CY 2003-2012***

Arrest Offense Statute and Description	Statute Charges Missing Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2014)	Percentage of Statute Charges Missing Disposition Information in ACCH (as of January 1, 2014)
1. A.R.S. §13-2506: 2 nd Degree Failure to Appear	112,284	30.1%
2. A.R.S. §28-1381: Driving Under the Influence	92,237	18.1%
3. A.R.S. §13-3415: Drug Paraphernalia Violation	73,687	25.0%
4. A.R.S. §13-3405: Marijuana Violation	53,286	25.7%
5. A.R.S. §13-2507: 1 st Degree Failure to Appear	53,082	62.8%
6. A.R.S. §13-2904: Disorderly Conduct	49,125	21.2%
7. A.R.S. §28-3473: Driving Violation	48,133	23.9%
8. A.R.S. §13-2810: Interfering with Judicial Proceedings	47,819	34.6%
9. A.R.S. §13-1203: Assault	41,153	18.9%
10. A.R.S. §13-3904: Promise to Appear Violation	41,132	23.7%

* Data includes all CY 2003-2012 arrest charges and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31, 2013 without date errors.

Table 3. Percentage of Arrest Charges with Associated Case Disposition Information by County, CY 2003-2012*

County	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Apache	62.1%	66.8%	65.5%	62.4%	64.6%	57.4%	75.2%	69.1%	70.8%	70.6%
Cochise	52.3%	56.8%	69.7%	66.8%	71.4%	67.9%	75.0%	66.9%	72.0%	69.0%
Coconino	50.6%	55.5%	57.1%	49.7%	63.4%	59.4%	46.6%	66.7%	62.9%	74.6%
Gila	58.5%	55.6%	56.5%	51.1%	50.2%	55.3%	60.5%	65.7%	78.1%	76.1%
Graham	66.0%	70.4%	66.4%	59.0%	61.7%	62.6%	69.3%	72.8%	71.3%	76.6%
Greenlee	63.3%	64.1%	66.1%	50.1%	73.9%	83.6%	76.6%	86.7%	81.5%	75.8%
La Paz	62.5%	65.6%	66.7%	46.4%	28.4%	38.7%	36.3%	52.8%	63.8%	77.6%
Maricopa	68.4%	67.8%	63.3%	66.5%	72.0%	72.8%	66.0%	65.7%	72.6%	73.4%
Mohave	61.9%	62.8%	60.8%	63.2%	62.8%	64.8%	72.3%	72.5%	72.9%	75.4%
Navajo	32.4%	21.6%	33.1%	42.7%	52.2%	54.0%	53.3%	50.0%	48.8%	61.6%
Pima	34.8%	34.8%	40.6%	61.3%	63.6%	57.0%	59.0%	66.4%	73.1%	72.5%
Pinal	65.8%	64.8%	61.9%	66.1%	63.3%	66.5%	70.9%	68.1%	66.6%	67.2%
Santa Cruz	67.6%	65.2%	60.5%	64.3%	59.5%	74.2%	78.0%	67.6%	70.1%	76.6%
Yavapai	54.0%	39.4%	58.9%	69.4%	75.0%	78.1%	79.7%	81.9%	81.5%	84.6%
Yuma	73.8%	70.8%	66.5%	73.2%	76.9%	81.3%	78.1%	78.5%	76.9%	60.2%

* Data includes arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded.

improvement of Yavapai County. In CY 2012, Yavapai County increased its ACCH arrest charge completion rate to 84.6 percent—the highest rate in the state. Apache, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties also increased or maintained their ACCH arrest charge completion rates at greater than 70 percent completion in CY 2012 (Table 3). By CY 2012, all counties reached completion rates above 60 percent.

Case Disposition Completion Rates by Offense Type

The data in Table 4 addresses the percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information available in the ACCH by offense type (i.e., misdemeanor vs. felony). Over the ten-year period, a higher percentage of misdemeanor arrest charges had associated case disposition information entered into the ACCH by the end of the following calendar year than felony charges. The rate of misdemeanor arrest charges with associated case disposition information rose from 62.7 percent to 75.0 percent over the ten-year period while felony arrest charges improved from 53.4 percent in CY 2003 to 67.9 percent in CY 2012. Table 4 includes all arrest charges entered by December 31st of the year following the arrest date, and disposition information was “complete” if the disposition data was entered into the ACCH by the end of the year following the arrest.

Conclusion

The findings described in this research brief have been compiled using an ACCH data extract provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Arizona criminal justice agencies have made significant strides in records completeness, as reflected in the percentage increase of arrest charges submitted to the ACCH with associated case disposition information attached from 59.2 percent in CY 2003 to 72.1 percent in CY 2012 (see Table 1). Despite noticeable improvements, there is room for the continued increase in record completeness. Quality criminal history record data will continue to help criminal justice agencies with offender identification, arrest and sentencing decisions, and background checks for employment and firearm purchases.

Case Disposition Completion Rates by County

The percentage of arrest charges with associated case disposition information is also available by county in which the arrest was made (Table 3). From CY 2003 to CY 2012, all but one county increased their percentage of arrest charges entered into the ACCH with associated case disposition information attached by the end of the year following arrest. In CY 2003, the rate of arrest charges with associated case disposition information entered by the end of the following calendar year across Arizona counties ranged from a low of 32.4 percent to a high of 73.8 percent. As of CY 2012, the county percentages ranged from a low of 60.2 percent to a high of 84.6 percent of the total number of arrest charges entered into the ACCH with the associated case disposition information attached by the end of CY 2013.

Worth noting is the significant

Table 4. Percentage of Arrest Charges with Disposition Information in the ACCH by Offense Type, CY 2003-2012*

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Percentage of Felony Arrest Charges Disposed	53.4%	51.5%	50.9%	60.1%	65.6%	68.0%	60.9%	59.9%	65.8%	67.9%
Percentage of Misdemeanor Arrest Charges Disposed	62.7%	61.7%	61.1%	65.5%	69.8%	68.4%	67.6%	70.3%	75.0%	75.0%

* Data includes arrest charges entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest charges leading to appellate court decisions and/or containing date errors (i.e. disposition date preceding the arrest date, etc.) are excluded.

Electronic vs. Paper Disposition Submission to DPS

Table 5 displays the percentage of disposition charges submitted to the ACCH by calendar year and by method of submission to the ACCH. In CY 2003, 12.8 percent of all charges submitted to the ACCH were submitted electronically. By CY 2012, 23.6 percent of all charges submitted to ACCH were submitted electronically, including submissions made via E-Dispo and the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS).

Table 5. Percentage of Disposition Charges by Disposition Submission Type CY 2003-2012*

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Charges Electronically Submitted through E-Dispo	12.8%	14.6%	14.0%	9.8%	7.2%	7.2%	7.0%	6.6%	7.4%	5.2%
Charges Electronically Submitted through ADRS	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0%	6.5%	13.5%	13.9%	13.6%	12.3%	18.4%
Charges Submitted via Paper Submission	87.2%	85.4%	86.0%	90.1%	86.3%	79.3%	79.1%	79.8%	80.4%	76.4%

* Data includes all disposition charges entered into the ACCH without date errors during the calendar year.

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